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# Harvard trustees have right to ban secret CIA recruitment

CIA DIRECTOR Stansfield Turner is wrong in challenging the right of Harvard University to control recruitment activities among students and faculty.

Harvard's trustees recently banned the CIA from quietly recruiting foreign students.

Turner's reaction was blunt: "If we were required to abide by the rules of every corporation, every academic institution, it would become impossible to do the required job for our country. Harvard does not have any legal authority over us."

That is true enough. But Harvard does have the responsibility, as do other universities, to control access to university property and to establish policies to foster trust and openness within the academic community.

Secret recruitment of students, whether foreign or American, would tend to diminish this bond of faith among faculty and students. Even the suspicion of a spy in the neighborhood would hurt.

Their interest in foreign students dealt more with foreign than domestic operations, which, theoretically at least, are prohibited by law.

Their hope is that foreign students eventually will occupy important positions in their governments, giving the CIA access to secret information in the years ahead.

Along the way foreign students, once on the CIA payroll, are likely to pass along bits of gossip about other students, faculty and administrators, information

which will be slipped quietly to the CIA computers.

As a practical matter, it's unlikely that Harvard or any other university is equipped to prevent the CIA from slipping into Harvard Yard to recruit agents.

Yet Turner's defiance of the Harvard trustees suggests, if nothing else, that the CIA has lost little of its arrogance, despite the scandals of recent years.

Cutting away the flamboyant rhetoric, Turner is telling us what past directors have said — the CIA knows what is best for the rest of us.

President Carter, or the Senate Intelligence Committee should tell Turner to respect the Harvard trustees and work around the ban without violating Harvard's authority.